

III. *Description of a variety of Ornithoptera Brookiana* (female). By the Rev. FRANCIS AUGUSTUS WALKER, D.D., F.L.S., &c.

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THE variety of *O. Brookiana* (female) which I here endeavour to describe resembles in some particulars the ordinary type of the male, and has also some resemblance to the ordinary type of the female. I have named it *Eleanor*, and it is the only variety of this singularly handsome and elegant species that I have ever seen. It is the more valuable as even the ordinary type of the female of the species is singularly rare and difficult of acquisition, probably 99 out of every 100 specimens forwarded to this country being males.

Hewitson describes the male as being divided on the anterior wing, below the middle, into seven hastate spots pointing to the outer margin, which they nearly touch. These seven hastate spots of metallic, or according to Hewitson, golden green,—which might perhaps be more appropriately designated triangular patches,—are represented in the variety *Eleanor* by five spots or patches, the sixth, and especially the seventh, consisting of mere streaks. In fact the seventh spot of the male is replaced in this variety by a mere thread of green, only just visible. It is noticeable also that the green patches on the anterior wings are more distinctly divided by a black line than in the male, corresponding in this respect to the posterior wings of the male which Hewitson describes as at the middle divided by the nervures, which are black; and this description of division by black nervures is applicable alike to the posterior wings of the typical male and female, as well as to those of this variety. As regards the metallic-green colour on both the anterior and posterior wings of this specimen, it is brighter than in the ordinary female, being nearly, but not quite, as vivid as in the male. Indeed, the ordinary female can hardly be

said to have patches, but only streaks converging to a point on the anterior wings, and forming an edging to the dark brown within, which in all the females replaces the velvety black of the male. The shape and position of the green markings on the posterior wings of both the ordinary female and this variety are precisely the same; but, as already indicated, by being brighter in colour in the latter they appear to exceed in quantity those of the typical female.

But the greatest difference between the ordinary female and this variety consists in the total absence in the latter of the dusky pencilling near the apex of the anterior wings, and the very indistinct figuring of the row of spots in the margin of the posterior wings that causes the ordinary female in this respect to resemble a *Diadema*.

The ordinary female has three white spots on the upper part of the border of the posterior wing, and lower down four grey ones; the variety here described has only two smaller white spots, and the grey ones are decidedly more indistinct.

As regards the under side, this specimen is seen to be unmistakably a female by the dusky pencilling of its anterior wings, in which respect it closely resembles the ordinary female, the male having little or no pencilling there; but in the whitish markings of the posterior wings, it far more nearly resembles the male, possessing less pronounced and smaller markings, and having a less continuous scalloped band than in the ordinary female. Indeed, it has even fewer markings than the male, possessing very slight indications of the second, inner, and fainter band which may be observed both in the typical male and female.

All male specimens of *O. Brookiana* have a tinge of blue within the green on the inner margin of the posterior wings, and near the point of contact with the body. In the ordinary female, and also in the specimen here described, this blue tinge is replaced by a level blue stripe. On the under side of the posterior wings the blue markings of this variety appear to be precisely similar to those of the ordinary female, whereas the male has a third slight additional dash of blue that neither the typical female nor this variety possesses. On the anterior wings (underside) the blue in the male is almost confined to one blue stripe beneath the

markings of metallic green, and the slighter outer ones of dusky pencilling, and there is also a narrow blue line along that part of the upper margin of the wing nearest the body. This line may be observed both in the type female and in the variety also; but the point in which the sexes differ, as regards the blue markings, is that both females have a parti-coloured patch in the upper segment of the anterior wing, golden green towards the outer and blue towards the inner surface, which is altogether wanting in the male; and also that on the anterior wings of this variety the blue markings predominate, while on those of the ordinary female there is rather more metallic-green. This specimen, which is unfortunately rather worn, and has lost its antennæ, does not differ from the type as regards the red neck collar, or in having, as Hewitson phrases it, "the body belted twice with crimson."